



View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 131 December 2015

£1.4million funding boost for rural projects

THE rural economy in parts of Mid and East Devon, and Somerset, will be bolstered with £1.4million of funding support, Devon County Council has announced.

The county council is overseeing two EU funded LEADER grants programmes, which aims to create jobs and help to develop rural businesses.

The council is working in close partnership with a number of organisations to deliver a successful funding programme. The Areas of Outstanding Natural

Beauty (AONBs), Local Authorities and other delivery partners will be providing support to businesses and organisations who are looking to access the funding.

A panel, made up of private and community sector representatives, known as The Local Action Group, will award grants locally to farmers, growers, foresters, other local rural businesses and rural community organisations. It will support projects that create opportunities to improve the local economy in terms of

jobs and growth, as well as improving the quality of life in the area.

The Making it Local Action Group serves parts of Mid and East Devon and Somerset, covering parishes of the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONBs and surrounding gateway market towns. This will oversee the delivery of more than £1.4 million of funding over the next three years.

Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, Devon County Council Cabinet member for Economy and Growth, said: "Supporting the growth and development of a diverse rural economy is a key priority for the County Council, and LEADER funding will offer a genuine boost for local communities. Partnership working between local organisations is vital to this scheme to help secure this money for rural businesses and communities in Devon."

Councillor Paul Diviani, Leader of East Devon Dis-

trict Council and Chair of the Making it Local Action Group, said: "We have supported the delivery of LEADER funding to the communities within the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB areas for a number of years already. This latest round of LEADER funding gives us the opportunity to really focus on the small busi-

nesses and diverse communities that contribute so much to our vibrant economy through the Making it Local area. Funding will support business growth and job creation as well as improvements to local services and facilities within our communities."

The LEADER grants programme has six priorities, which are to:

- increase farm productivity;
- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification;
- boost rural tourism;
- provide rural services;
- provide cultural and heritage activities; and
- increase forestry productivity.

The scheme is part of the Rural Development Pro-

gramme for England (RDPE) which is run by DEFRA and is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Develop-

ment (EAFRD).

To find out more about the funding programme visit the website at www.makingitlocal.org.

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Training scheme success for students

THIS summer, Blackdown Hills Natural Futures offered landowners in the Blackdown Hills free wildlife surveys and management advice while training budding ecologists.

The trainees, Laura Quinlan, Emily Forbes and Tom Nitti, completed a programme of survey work to develop their skills in wildlife and botanical identification. More than 40 sites were visited, which were mainly woodland and grassland habitats.

The training scheme has already seen some fantastic outcomes. After four months attending the training programme Tom Nitti applied for an assistant ecologist position with Devon Wildlife Consultants and was successful in being appointed.

Tom's new employer said: "We

had an extraordinarily high number of strong applicants and were attracted to Tom's application due to the range of relevant training and experience he had acquired during his to his placement with BHNF."

Another one of the trainees, Laura Quinlan, said: "As well as in depth botanical identification training, I have had the opportunity to survey bats, dormice, newts and even crayfish, which I would never have been able to do without this project."

The trainees also assisted project officer Conrad Barrowclough to compile survey reports to help landowners to manage their sites for nature conservation purposes.

The training scheme will reopen in April next year.

Some of the surveys are also open to the public, so you can join in just

to learn more about the rare species of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and how you can help to conserve them.

Blackdown Hills Natural Futures is run by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other supporters.

The three-year project is encouraging people to discover more about local wildlife, share their findings, and take action to look after the natural habitats in their own communities.

To find out more about the opportunities on offer, email info@blackdownhillsnaturalfutures.org or call 01823 681937.

Alternatively visit www.blackdownhillsnaturalfutures.org.



■ THE Blackdown Hills Natural Futures trainees working on a survey site

Village church makes final of competition

ST Andrew's Church has been named as one of just six finalists in the prestigious national competition to find the very best ideas for church fundraising in 2015.

The competition, backed by the church insurer Ecclesiastical in conjunction with Church Times, has attracted a huge range of ideas and highlighted activities going on in places of worship across the land.

As a finalist, St Andrew's is guaranteed to win at least £2,000, and is in the running to win the grand prize of £10,000. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at St Martin-in-the-Fields church in London.

St Andrew's has been included in the shortlist for its idea, which tested

who could get their paper plane furthest down the aisle of the church. Proceeds were put towards the repair of the church roof.

The judges have short-listed the idea "because it encouraged involvement from all age groups in the community, and helped to draw people into a street fayre". More than 140 people took part including the local primary schools.

The competition was open to churches and other Christian places of worship who have submitted a fundraising idea over the last 12 months, or any they planned to use in the coming 12 months. There were 424 entries in total from across the UK. The ideas from churches around the country have raised in excess of £300,000.



■ CHILDREN at Plymtree Primary School who have written their own Christmas song

Pupils' song for Christmas

CHILDREN from Plymtree C of E Primary School - part of the Culm Valley Federation - have been working hard to write music and lyrics for their own Christmas song.

In partnership with Alan Boxer (composer) and Chris Speyer (lyricist), the children are very proud of "Counting Down to Christmas (Christmas in Plymtree)" which can be listened to on the home page of the school website. Children in years two to six were given the opportunity to join a school choir and be part of the process.

Headteacher Alex Cutler said: "The school have entered the BBC Radio Devon competition - Star for Christmas 2015 primary school choir competition, but whatever the outcome we are very proud of our children and thrilled to have a signature Christmas song which we will use for many years to come."

Refurbished pump unveiled

■ HEMYOCK Parish Council has unveiled the iconic village pump following a refurbishment.

The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, Sir John Cave BT DL, unveiled the pump assisted by Fleur Drawert and Alfie Seal from Hemyock Primary School.

After the unveiling and a short speech, the pump was blessed by the rector, before the history of the pump was told and a poem read.

Music was played and a soup street party followed.



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Tributes paid to Surrey family who died in Churchinford plane crash

THE family of four people who died in a light aircraft crash near Churchinford last month have said they are "utterly heartbroken" in a tribute.

The victims, who were from the Woking area of Surrey, have been confirmed as pilot Phil Garvey, 56, his wife Ann, 55, their daughter Emily, 23, and their 20-year-old son Daniel.

The tribute said: "Phil,

Ann, Emily and Daniel Garvey were tragically killed in a plane crash on Saturday, November 14th.

"We are all utterly heartbroken. They were the best family anybody could have wished for and they brought happiness to everyone they met.

"Thank you to everyone for your love, thoughts and support."

Police received a call at 11.44am after the six-

seater aircraft crashed into land of Higher Southey Farm, near Buttles Lane, Churchinford.

The aircraft was heading from the Surrey area towards Dunkeswell Aerodrome, near Honiton.

Dave Manning of Higher Southey Farm told the BBC: "My next door neighbour came in and said a plane had come down. We went out and looked and there was basi-

cally nothing we could do.

"I took the pulse of one of the passengers. There was no pulse and we could smell aviation fuel, so we left until the emergency services arrived."

Police officers worked at the scene, along with crews from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and South Western Ambulance Service.

The fire service sent three appliances, three specialist vehicles and five officers, to deal with the incident, totalling 27 personnel.

The Exeter-based Devon Air Ambulance and the National Police Air Service helicopter also attended.

Supt Richard Corrigan said: "This is a very sad incident in which four people have tragically lost their lives.

"We have a specially trained family liaison officer supporting the affected family and they're being kept fully updated on our progress. Our thoughts are with them at this extremely difficult time.

"A joint investigation is under way with the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AIB)."



■ EMILY Garvey, 23



■ DANIEL Garvey, 20



■ PHIL, 56, and Ann Garvey, 55

Shoebox thank you

THANKS to the generosity of people in the Upper Culm Valley, more than 50 shoeboxes filled with gifts for Christmas, along with a large bag of knitted glove, hats and scarves, has been donated to the Devon charity Christian Response to Eastern Europe, which will be taken to Moldova one of Europe's poorest countries.

Organiser Janice Bawler said: "As always people in this area have been very generous and I am so grateful to everyone.

"Since I started organising a Christmas shoebox collection in this area thousands of boxes have been delivered to CR2EE and Samaritans Purse.

"It is so gratifying to know that so many villages, towns and schools who once brought their boxes to us now organise their own collection."

Nativity festival

A NATIVITY Crib Festival will be held at St Mary's Church, Hemyock, from Friday, December 11th to Sunday, December 13th.

Many different nativity crib scenes will be on display together with all kinds of other items depicting the nativity.

The festival, which is being arranged by the Friends of St Mary's Church, will be open on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th from 10am until 5.30pm and on Sunday, December 13th from 12.30pm until 5pm.

Admission is free and refreshments will be available each day.

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Take your litter home!



■ **UADS children perform sketches and read poetry in The Square, Uffculme**

VILLAGERS gathered in Uffculme to take part in the annual litter pick around the village.

Twice a year villagers get together to clean their streets and for the autumn litter pick something a little different occurred. All the litter collected throughout the morning was displayed in a large cage in the village

square to demonstrate to residents just how much rubbish is thrown in the streets.

A highlight of the day was a performance by the local drama group, Uffculme Amateur Dramatics Society. The cast, consisting mainly of children, were all dressed in clothes covered in litter to highlight the



■ **A YOUNG UADS protester**

problem. They were accompanied by three terriers who also donned their own litter outfits.

Spectators were entertained with songs and poems all relaying the message to not drop litter.

UADS went on to stage a short peaceful protest to passing vehicles and pedestrians.



■ **UADS perform on a trailer in The Square, Uffculme**



■ **UADS co-director Penny Burgess**

Help in a heartbeat

A REDUNDANT phonebox has been transformed to provide lifesaving equipment in a Blackdown Hills village.

The residents of Sheldon, near Dunkswell, now have access to a public defibrillator, which has been installed in the old phonebox with the help of the Community Heartbeat Trust.

It is available for use by members of the community and is designed to be used by untrained people as it talks you through the whole process.

Early access to a defibrillator is vital to people suffering a heart attack. Research shows that for every minute which passes without a defibrillator the chance of recovery weakens. The project has been a long time coming but is a necessity in a rural community when an ambulance is either a long way away or unable to access the village in extremes of weather.

An awareness session with the Community Heartbeat Trust will be held in the village for

anyone who wishes to attend. The session will include some basic first aid training plus instructions on how to use the defibrillator.

Inside the box is a small grab bag with a high-vis vest, wind up hand torch and small first aid kit. When the cabinet is open, a small light inside turns on automatically.

The people behind the project would like to thank the following supporters for funding the project: The Violet Chapman Trust, Devon Poultry, Sheldon Youth Club, Sheldon Village Hall, Sheldon Parish Council, Nick Gutfreund Fine Furniture, Sheldon Camera Club, and a very kind donation by Karen and Peter on behalf of the late Bob Cockerill.



Hemyock remembers

■ **MORE** than 200 people gathered at Hemyock Parish Church for the Remembrance Sunday service conducted by The Reverend Chris Hudson, with readings given by David Bawler and organist Ron White.

Many people joined the procession through the village led by St Mary's choir and uniformed youth groups.

The collection of almost £500 will be donated to the work of the Royal British Legion. On Armistices Day around 30 people met at the War Memorial for a short service of remembrance conducted by The Reverend John Stone.



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Blackdowns clubs and organisations

Hemyock Bowls Club



THE annual dinner for Hemyock Bowls Club was recently held at Lakeside View, near Honiton and attended by 49 members.

Margaret Brotheridge, whose year as lady president for Devon Bowls has just ended, and she is now the club president.

After a carvery meal she addressed the group saying that Hemyock Bowls Club is now definitely on the Devon map.

The spotlight has been on the club during the past season. The club was congratulated for the excellent hospitality when Margaret hosted her special president's day in the summer, and for the hosting of the Devon ladies finals day.

Also the achievement of the four Hemyock ladies was recognised after they went to the national finals at Leamington Spa to represent Devon Bowls – Margaret Brotheridge, Sue Cridland, Penny Gale and Sue Risdon who received the Runners up Trophy at a recent Devon Bowls lunch.

Pictured are winners and runners-up of club competitions

Blackdown Hills Gardening Club

THE Blackdown Hills Gardening Club met at Churchinford Hall where Graham Salmon welcomed members, visitors and speaker, John-Michael Kennaway, from Escot, Ottery St Mary.

Mr Kennaway presented "Water in the Garden" showing slides and giving information on all types and sizes of ponds in various situations, even telling of a moat surrounding a house on Exmoor. The owner persuaded his wife to go on a lengthy cruise and on her return she found a watery surround to her home.

Members did not realise there was so much to consider when siting a water feature or the upkeep needed to maintain it.

Mr Kennaway and his team not only build new ponds they also sort problems too.

There is no meeting in December. However in the New Year on Wednesday, January 21st at 7.30pm is a presentation on "All Gardens Great and Small" by Rebecca Pow, professional journalist and broadcaster followed by an AGM.

Hemyock Gardener's Association

HEMYOCK Gardeners Association once again won the Pottinger Cup.

This year only three garden clubs were competing for this prestigious prize.

Willand hosted the event and Sampford Peverell was the other team. The question master was Mike Short.

It was a closely fought contest which came down to a tie break - Hemyock vs Sampford Peverell.

It was the fourth year running for Hemyock to emerge as the winning team.

Hemyock's chairman thanked all concerned for arranging the event, with special thanks going to Wi land for the excellent refreshments.

Hemyock team members were Julie Steed, Jerry King, Dippy Elliott and Jane Smith.



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Blackdowns clubs and organisations

Clayhidon Friends

THE speaker this month delighted members with her account of a four week trip on a traditional sailing boat called The Eye of the Wind.

Carol Carr's brother had emigrated to Tasmania many years before, but turned up in the UK unexpectedly. He contacted Carol and invited her to sail on the ship down to the Canary Isles as a member of the crew.

Expecting a boat with a bit of luxury, she was shocked to find cramped living quarters, and very limited personal facilities, the details with which caused peels of laughter from members. However, after three days of

sea-sickness while crossing the Bay of Biscay, the description of which again, caused much hilarity, she began to settle into the ship's routine.

Her status was raised when she was left at the helm steering this magnificent ship through the night, and was mesmerised by the vastness of the starry sky and the sound of the sea.

They called in to a number of ports en route and enjoyed a little night life, but all too soon, Carol's trip came to an end, and she flew home having had the experience of a lifetime.

Thanks went to Carol for such an entertaining evening.

Hemyock WI

HEMYOCK WI have had an interesting couple of months.

The Wildside Experience in October was informative and enjoyable. The Blackdown Hills in Autumn was illustrated with film and samples of foliage and pieces of dead birds which Richard and his colleague had collected. Members learned that an empty hazelnut with a completely round hole, showed that it had been eaten by a fieldmouse as it was held in its front paws and moved around as it nibbled the shell.

The two men awarded Brenda's homemade pincushion first place, while Cindy and Bridget tied in the flower competition.

In November, president, Lyn Taylor, welcomed Elaine Branch who came to talk about "Massage For Health".

Elaine is a fully qualified Beauty Therapist with many other skills. She had members working in pairs, giving each other a shoulder massage. Many useful tips were learned that night and Elaine was thanked by Lyn.

Elaine awarded Cindy first place in the competition for "Something Blue". Cindy had brought a china kingfisher and Elaine explained that she had seen two of these birds near the Healthy Living Centre where she works. Lyn's beaded African necklace came second and Pat came third with a piece of lazulite. A beautiful gladioli brought by Karen was the outstanding winner of the flower competition.

The Autumn Council Meeting had been enjoyed by Lyn, Brenda and

Blackdown Hills Transition Group

HAVE you read the latest predictions showing that the available electrical power generation for the forthcoming winter has little spare capacity?

Over the past 20 years or so, there has been little forward planning by any government as to where and when replacement generating stations are to be constructed. Consequently there were no proposals for additional nuclear capacity, nor has any UK consortium come forward to bid for these.

Whilst older coal-fired stations have been closing, the gap between overall capacity and demand has been reducing to a fine margin. Even with the additional capacity of solar and wind generation, faced with gloomy autumn weather and the prospect of windless days their contribution is of little benefit for some weeks or months of the year.

The electricity supply companies have resorted to trying to temporarily resolve this issue by hauling in emergency genera-

tors at hospitals, factories and even a "diesel station" based in Plymouth consisting of 52 generating sets consuming an estimated 250,000 gallons of diesel a year. Not very "Green".

What we really need is a "joined-up" approach to how electricity is going to be produced and distributed in this country in the next 25 years. Why are houses being built with no solar PV panels or hot water systems? Why aren't these properties being aligned to the south-west for maximum exposure to the sun? Why are council offices, factories, schools and government buildings not covered in solar PV panels rather than desecrating prime farming land?

Exciting developments in the stored electricity are now filtering down to the buying public in the form of battery arrays. These could be connected to your solar panels and receive charge during bright weather periods, these could then switch in of an evening and power the house overnight, thus reducing

the strain of producing power in fossil fuelled stations at night.

But how can we help in this confused matter? I suppose that we could update our home lighting to LED fittings (which are more efficient than even compact fluorescent bulbs. If funds ran to it, maybe upgrading domestic appliances that are on all the time to more efficient ones. All of which could help to reduce your electrical consumption and also improve your finances too.

I hope this gives you some food for thought and also that some far-sighted politician will help the country plan for tomorrow rather than today.

Further Events:

Blackdown Hills Transition and Honiton Transition Groups host "View and Chew" every third Thursday of the month at the Beehive Centre, Honiton. There is an opportunity to view a film related to environmental issues and have a discussion with others about the issues raised. The evening starts at 6.30pm with snacks in the cafe, film starts at 7pm.

Sampford Arundel WI



MEMBERS of Sampford Arundel WI who recently performed in "Alice in WILand", at Junction 24 as the centenary celebration of the WI by the Somerset federation

Pictured is Joan Knowlman, as a 1937 member, Jane Dickens as the caterpillar, Cathy Alford as a founding member from 1915, and Sheila Netley as lady Denman the first National Chair.

Judith. The guest speakers were excellent and they even had the excitement of a mass exodus from the Guildhall, when the fire alarm sounded.

The lunch held at Lakeside Manor was enjoyed by 90 members from all over Devon. Hemyock was well

represented with 15 of their members attending.

Hemyock have beaten Culmstock in the County Skittles match and Uffculme WI is their opponent in the next round.

December 1st in Forbes Lounge is the next meeting when Lyn and

Cindy will be doing something Christmassy and Crafty. There will be a bring and share supper. The competition is for a "Festive Recipe" plus a flower from the garden.

Hemyock WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Forbes Lounge.



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Blackdown Hills Christmas Market

CASTLE GREEN, TAUNTON



A warm welcome awaits you at the **Blackdown Hills Christmas Markets**

Saturday, 28 & Sunday, 29 November,
1st of December to Christmas Eve!
Castle Green, Taunton

You are invited to the official opening of the Blackdown Hills Christmas Markets at Castle Green. We will be raising a glass of mulled cider at 12 noon on Saturday, 28 November to mark the official opening! said Val Baker, organiser of the Blackdown Hills Christmas Markets.

'Merlin is making a guest appearance from the Brewhouse Theatre and he will also join in with the children's Christmas activities (free) in the Museum of Somerset. We will be keeping our markets open for late night shopping on Saturday, 28 November along with the main streets in the town centre including the Orchard Centre which is open until 8pm (Thursdays are also late night shopping nights until 9pm and until 7pm on the last few days before Christmas). We continue our market on Sunday 29th November for the Switch On event and then every day from Tuesday, 1st December until Christmas Eve'.

The Blackdown Hills Christmas Markets will be bigger than ever this year. There is a wealth of creative talent tucked away in the Blackdown Hills and Taunton area. You can watch artisans at work on demonstration days - West Country Blacksmiths will be joining us regularly. You can buy unique gifts from our crafters and sample delicious food from our artisans who make unique produce and products with passion and care. Local musicians and a choir will keep you entertained and delicious hot street food will be available for you to sample at many of our markets.

Think Amy will be running Santa's Grotto on Sunday, 29th December. Come along and meet

the reindeer at the Castle Hotel as part of the Christmas Festival and Switch On! Santa will then move into the Museum of Somerset every Saturday in the run up to Christmas. Santa's Elves will be on hand too, providing more entertainment and a trail!

Taunton's Winter Lights organised by Fuse Performance (sponsored by Taunton Deane Borough Council) will bring free entertainment to Castle Green. We will be joined by Punch & Judy - there will also be a children's lantern parade later in the day at our market on Saturday, 12th December as well as fire and light performances at dusk at Castle Green on Thursday, 17th and Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th December.

We are back again in 2016, from the first Saturday in March and then every Saturday thereafter. We are already planning new festivals and events at Castle Green in 2016.

For more details of the Blackdown Hills Christmas Markets and future markets and events, please visit our Blackdown Hills Market Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BlackdownHillsMarket/> and follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/BHBAVal>

You can also go to the Taunton Visitor Centre website at www.visitsomerset.co.uk/taunton Twitter #TauntonXmas <https://twitter.com/moreTaunton>

We are grateful for the continued support of Taunton Deane Borough Council.

We are proud to be supporting -Think Amy and Stand Against Violence.

Blackdown Hills Christmas Markets

10am to 5pm

**+ Late Night Shopping on Thursday Nights to 8pm
+ Sat, 12 + Sat, 19 + Sun 20 Dec to 6.30pm
at Castle Green Taunton town centre**

Sat, 28th November - 10 to 5pm

Artisan market, rural skills demos, entertainment & street food

Sun, 29th November - 10 to 7pm

Artisan market, rural skills demos, entertainment, street food & Taunton Lights Switch On!

Tues, 1st - Thurs, 24th December - 10 to 5pm

Artisan market, rural skills demos, street food, late night shopping, Winter Lights*, street performers, fire & light shows, Childrens' Lantern Parade, Punch & Judy, choirs, music & Father Christmas

**Winter lights are brought to the Blackdown Hills Christmas Market at Castle Green by Fuse Performance*

Sat, 12 Dec - All day to 7pm, Thurs, 17 Dec - All day to 8.30pm,

Sat, 19 Dec - All day to 6.30pm & Sun, 20 December - All day to 6.30pm

Blackdown Hills Market is organised by the Blackdown Hills Business Association,

please visit www.facebook.com/BlackdownHillsMarket

With thanks to Taunton Deane Borough Council for their continued support



www.highlandsfarmshop.co.uk

CHRISTMAS ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

**Free range Geese & Turkeys, Orchard reared Pork,
High quality naturally fed Beef, Grass fed Lamb**

BLACKDOWN HILLS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

1st PRIZE – TURKEY & TRIMMINGS

2nd PRIZE – JOINT OF TOPSIDE BEEF & TRIMMINGS

**3rd PRIZE - ORCHARD REARED PORK JOINT
& TRIMMINGS**

£1 per ticket available at Highlands Farm Shop

All proceeds going to

BLACKDOWN HILLS SUPPORT GROUP

FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES • CHRISTMAS GOODIES

**local free range eggs, order and box locally sourced
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Whitney Farm Christmas Geese

DAN and Sarah Dunning have been rearing Geese for Christmas at Whitney Farm since 2008. Food and farming go hand in hand, and both are extremely important to Dan and Sarah. Their love of quality food and attention to detail

certainly gives them an edge when it comes to the quality of their products and service.

Dan is really enthusiastic about the tradition of eating goose at Christmas having been involved in the rearing of them from a young age.

Rearing geese for Christmas is an important part of our history. Until the turkey was introduced to this country, goose was the traditional bird of choice. We are happy to be a part of the recent regrowth of this tradition. Christmas dinner is the most special meal of the year, what could be better than a locally reared, free range Somerset goose as the centrepiece on your Christmas table?"

Whitney Farm is a small, mainly grassland farm situated just outside of Ilminster. It is home to a flock of geese as well as a small herd of cattle and chickens are kept to supply eggs to the surrounding villages. All of Dan and Sarah's animals are well cared for and are allowed to roam and graze as nature intended.

Geese are available to order now, and their special Goose and Plum Sauce Sausages are available all year round. Don't leave ordering too late to avoid disappointment!

Christmas Geese

Free Range Geese

Our free range geese are fed on locally grown corn, giving a rich golden finish. A Whitney Farm goose is one of the finest poultry meats for any special occasion.

Geese Start from just £34
Beef Boxes also available

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www.whitneyfarm.co.uk
Call us on: 01460 258797



The Sidmouth Arms

Upton, Honiton, Devon. EX14 9PN, Telephone 01404 861252

Christmas Menu

Starters

Spiced Parsnip Soup

Egland Shoot Pheasant Breast served on an apple and potato rosti with a homemade sloe gin gravy

Smoked Mackerel Pate with horseradish cream and toast

Stilton Rarebit with pear salad

Pork and Pistachio Terrine with chutney, salad garnish and multigrain toast

Mains

Roast Topside of English Beef and Yorkshire pudding, gravy and roasted potatoes

Roast Turkey served with homemade stuffing, roasted potatoes, gravy and pigs in blankets

Slow Roasted Pork Belly, served on mash potato and roasted apples, with a cider gravy

Local Trout stuffed with lemon, herbs, flaked almonds, and buttered new potatoes

Goats Cheese served with Puy lentils, pomegranate and a sticky balsamic glaze

Served with a side of seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Nannie Clodes homemade Christmas pudding

Baileys and dark chocolate cheesecake

Lemon and Limoncello mousse with pan forte

Pears poached in mulled wine with a Chantilly cream

Complimentary homemade mince pies and coffee to follow

Two courses £16.00 Three courses £19.00

Lunchtime Christmas menu available from £13.50 for two courses

The Sidmouth Arms Christmas menu is available from the 30th November until 30th December, excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Parties of up to 90 persons catered for.

www.sidmoutharms.com

sidmoutharms@gmail.com

f Sidmouth Arms



Christmas Tasting Night Barleymow's

FARM SHOP & RESTAURANT

Wednesday 2nd December • 4pm - 7pm

- Serving mulled wine and mince pies
- Free tastings
- Meet our suppliers/producers
- Your chance to beat the rush and order your Christmas meats, Christmas cakes and other goodies
- Selection of Hampers and gift ideas on display
- Homegrown Norwegian Fir and Spruce Christmas Trees

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www.barleymowsfarmshop.co.uk

We are 1/2 mile west of Chard on the A30



CHRISTMAS IN THE BLACKDOWN HILLS

The Next Big Thing

A NEW sport is emerging and is expected to be "The Next Big Thing". E-performance biking is described having the physical activity of mountain biking with the dynamic of a motor. It is between mountain biking and motor cross –but quieter, healthier, cleaner and more environmentally friendly and above all awesome.

Suppliers are rushing to supply the demand. Raleigh UK are importing a range of Haibikes produced by their parent company. Priced at between £13000 (Yes! 13) and £1895, riding this is not for the faint hearted either. The machines certainly have the strength and agility to get over rough terrain at speed.

If riding over very rough rocky ground is your sport the Full FatSix will suit you.

This is a full suspension mountain bike with 250 watt motor and 4" tyres priced at £3500.

All the Haibikes sold in the UK are designed to be fully road legal.

The Fate of Throttles.

But the law has not been so kind the rider who needs the support of a throttle. Although the UK Government say that they are willing to have a Twist & Go throttle on an electric bike without it being classified as a moped, the way the law has been framed is making it virtually impossible to import suitable electric bikes. All is being done in the name of European harmonisation.

As of 1st Jan 2016, only electric bikes bought before that date with Twist & Go throttles are definitely legal to use on the road.



Wellington Farmers Market at Christmas 2015

THE CHRISTMAS Wellington markets will be held on Saturday 5th and also on 19th December which will include carol singers.

Wellington Farmers' Market was established in 2003. The emphasis of the market continues to be fresh local produce. Stallholders are happy to discuss their goods and give cooking and recipe suggestions. Buying from Wellington Farmers Market supports the local economy and reduces food miles.

Most stallholders are primary producers, growing what they sell. Choose amongst beef, lamb & pork; venison & game; free-range eggs; Brixham fish; bread, cakes, pies & pasties; local honey, chutneys & preserves, apple juice, chilli sauces;

seasonal veg, plants & cut flowers, also West Country cheeses. Seasonal traders include Christmas puds.

WELLINGTON FARMERS MARKET



Contact: The Secretary
07949 592044
legglandsorchards&talktalk.net



Wellington Christmas markets
5th and 19th December 9-1

Wellington Market is held on
the 1st and 3rd Saturday of
every month

First market of 2016 will be
Saturday 16th January



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View from the
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Christmas Meat Hamper

£25 - Corn Fed Chicken - Gammon Joint - Pork Chipolatas
Bacon - Sausage Meat - Pork Chops

£35 - Topside Joint - Gammon Joint - Bacon
Sausage Meat - Pork Chipolatas - Pork Chops

All our poultry is free range and farm reared. Recipe leaflet presented with all poultry
From our flock we have sheepskin and bean bags for sale.
Please pre order to avoid disappointment



*Not actual image

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CHRISTMAS IN THE BLACKDOWN HILLS

Complete Meats can help with your Christmas shopping

HERE AT Complete Meats we know we can't help with all your Christmas shopping but we like to try!

Christmas Day food? Choose from locally reared turkey or our great value Turkey Box - a succulent 2kg turkey breast crown, pigs in blankets, free range pork sausage meat, streaky bacon and stuffing balls, great value at £29.99 and it will feed up to 8 people.

Holding a party? Try our own tasty cold cutting pies, quiches, scotch eggs and pork pies as well as our superb selection of cheeses, olives, mince pies and much more. Stuck for a present? How about a hamper from our

shop, made to order for you.

Something smaller? A selection of quality pickles and chutneys in a little jute bag, perfect to go with cold meats after Christmas.

Last minute dash? A gift voucher that is sure to be appreciated, who can resist our award winning sausages!

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The Aviator Christmas Menu

Monday to Saturday lunchtimes

Tomato and Roasted Pepper Soup

Served with ciabatta and butter

Duck and Orange Pate

Served with warm toast & butter

Prawn and Smoked Salmon Cocktail

Served with bread and butter

Roast Turkey

with all the trimmings

Roast Lamb

with Rosemary Stuffing

Salmon Fillet

with Prawns and Dill Sauce

Parsnip, Chestnut and Lentil Pudding

All served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Christmas Pudding

with Brandy Sauce

Caramel Apple Pie and

Cream (Gluten Free)

Cheese and Biscuits

Two Courses

£12.95

Three Courses

£16.95

Children

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what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

Unique Christmas gifts on display in gallery exhibition



PRESENT Makers 2015 is a vibrant exhibition at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton, exploring the skill and innovation of craft makers across the South West region.

The exhibition gives both iconic and emerging designers and craft makers the opportunity to showcase their broad ranging skills and artistic vision in the wonderful setting of Elmfield House, the former home and studio of the artist Thelma Hulbert.

Unique examples of textiles, jewellery, ceramics, glass and lighting will be on display with a range of prices to suit anyone looking for the ideal Christmas gift.

Featured this year is the Bristol-based ceramic designer, Alice Shields who creates bold homewares, jewellery and gifts. Alice's new block porcelain jewellery range is all hand formed and inspired by the Art Deco period and her love of bold colours.

Louise Cotey creates hand woven textiles for accessories using natural fibres.

She said: "Weaving is a wonderful sculptural craft – the simple act of crossing warp with weft fibres offers so many possibilities. I like to source my yarn locally to support small businesses and reduce my 'fibre miles'. A piece of hand woven textile should be both functional and something to treasure."

Nicky Exell is a fused glass artist from Exmouth who draws her inspiration from Dartmoor and also the beautiful Devon coastline. Recently Nicky has explored a new technique using high temperature firing to create beautiful, glass lattice work. These brand new pieces will be exhibited to the public for the very first time in Present Makers.

Whilst visiting Present Makers 2015, visitors should not forget to pop in to the gallery shop, which stocks local

artists' prints and crafts alongside a popular selection of Tate art books, diaries, calendars and gifts as well as unusual Christmas and greetings cards.

Present Makers 2015 will run at the gallery until December 19th. Admission is free but donations are welcome. All donations support the Thelma Hulbert Gallery learning programme.

This exhibition is sponsored by Beviss & Beckingsale solicitors.

Also taking place at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery in the run up to Christmas is a family drop-in activity day on Saturday, December 12th 11am – 3pm.

Pictured top left is Alice Shields' art deco inspired block porcelain jewellery range. Below is work from Bath based ceramic artist Trevor Lillistone and top right is an example of Nicky Exell's fused glass.

Quiz night in Clayhidon

IT'S quiz time in Clayhidon again - with the promise of a great social evening and a chance to challenge the old brain cells.

The quiz will take place on Saturday, December 5th at 7.30pm at Clayhidon Parish Hall.

The price is £4 per head and includes a bread and cheese supper.

The quizmaster is the ever popular Peter Walter.

There will be a licensed bar.

To enter a team of four and make sure of a table call Caroline Bendle on 01823 681047 or email

carouelle@btinternet.com

If you can't muster a full team don't worry. Contact Caroline and she will try to match you up with partners.

diary dates

If you are holding an event in the Blackdown Hills and would like it included as a Diary Date in the paper please email the details to alex@tindlenews.co.uk.

Don't forget to include the date, time, place, organiser's name and a brief description of the event.

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NOV 30	5 DAYS	TURKEY & TINSEL – FOLKESTONE & BRUGES	£195.00	APR 29	3 DAYS	CHELTHENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL	£139.00
DEC 11	4 DAYS	GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS	£269.00	APR 30	3 DAYS	PROMS SPECTACULAR	£165.00
DEC 12	2 DAYS	KEUKENHOF CASTLE CHRISTMAS MARKET	£269.00	MAY 01	5 DAYS	YORKSHIRE EXPLORER	£275.00
DEC 23	5 DAYS	CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WEEKEND IN CALAIS	£99.00	MAY 02	5 DAYS	CUMBRIAN JOURNEY & CARLISLE TO SETTLE RAILWAY	£295.00
DEC 30	4 DAYS	CHRISTMAS IN STRATFORD UPON AVON... 2 seats only	£485.00	MAY 06	4 DAYS	THE VALE OF EVESHAM & THE BLOSSOM TRAIL	£179.00
DEC 30	4 DAYS	NEW YEAR IN WALES... 2 seats only	£295.00	MAY 06	4 DAYS	SPRINGTIME IN PARIS	£225.00
DEC 30	4 DAYS	NEW YEAR IN CORNWALL	£295.00	MAY 08	9 DAYS	SPAIN... ROSES & THE COSTA BRAVA	£475.00
JAN 4 16	5 DAYS	OUR BEST EVER VALUE HOLIDAY... YORK	£169.00	MAY 08	11 DAYS	GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND	£825.00
JAN 9	2 DAYS	LONDON THEATRE WEEKEND... CHOICE OF SHOWS	£179.00	MAY 9	5 DAYS	JERSEY	£315.00
JAN 9	2 DAYS	LONDON ONLY	£99.00	MAY 9	5 DAYS	GUERNSEY	£395.00
JAN 10	10 DAYS	SPAIN... WINTER SUN ON THE COSTA BRAVA	£435.00	MAY 9	5 DAYS	SPRINGTIME IN NORTH WALES & CHESHIRE	£299.00
JAN 11	5 DAYS	WARNER BREAK... SINAH WARREN	£295.00	MAY 15	6 DAYS	SOUTHERN IRELAND... SHANNON'S FLYING BOATS	£395.00
JAN 16	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN CARDIFF & ABERGAVENNY	£69.00	MAY 16	5 DAYS	NATIONAL TRUST TREASURES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	From £310.00
JAN 20	2 DAYS	LAMMA SHOW 2016	£95.00	MAY 20	4 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN AMSTERDAM	£245.00
JAN 23	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER	£69.00	MAY 21	8 DAYS	RAIL, SAIL & PIGTAIL... IN THE BLACK FOREST	£525.00
JAN 30	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN FALMOUTH & TRURO	£69.00	MAY 23	5 DAYS	NORFOLK... THE BROADS & SANDRINGHAM	£325.00
JAN 31	7 DAYS	AUSTRIAN WINTERWONDERLAND	£399.00	MAY 23	5 DAYS	SCENIC SHROPSHIRE... CALAL BOATS & STEAM TRAINS	£315.00
FEB 06	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN SALISBURY & BATH	£69.00	MAY 23	5 DAYS	THE FOREST OF DEAN & THE WYE VALLEY BY COACH, BOAT & TRAIN	£315.00
FEB 13	2 DAYS	STRICTLY COME DANCING LIVE TOUR, LONDON NEW	£165.00	MAY 26	2 DAYS	RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW	£175.00
FEB 13	2 DAYS	VALENTINES WEEKEND IN PORTSMOUTH & WINCHESTER	£69.00	MAY 30	5 DAYS	THE LOVELY LAKE DISTRICT	£299.00
FEB 23	3 DAYS	HODSOCK MANOR SNOWDROP SPECTACULAR	£119.00	MAY 30	5 DAYS	ANCIENT DURHAM	£325.00
FEB 27	2 DAYS	A MYSTERY WEEKEND	£69.00	JUNE 3	3 DAYS	THE EPSOM DERBY	£239.00
FEB 28	7 DAYS	SNOWBOUND ON THE GLACIER EXPRESS... SWITZERLAND	£565.00	JUNE 4	2 DAYS	LONDON THEATRE WEEKEND... CHOICE OF SHOWS	£185.00
FEB 29	5 DAYS	WINTER WARMER... SUFFOLK & HOME COUNTIES	£235.00	JUNE 4	2 DAYS	CHOCOLATE SAFARI	£99.00
MAR 5	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN HEREFORD & WORCESTER	£69.00	JUNE 4	9 DAYS	SWITZERLAND & ITALY inc THE BERNINA EXPRESS	£775.00
MAR 6	8 DAYS	ON TOP OF THE WORLD IN THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES	£435.00	JUNE 6	5 DAYS	TENBY & PEMBROKESHIRE	£295.00
MAR 7	5 DAYS	SHOWTIME IN NORTH WALES	£259.00	JUNE 6	5 DAYS	LUDLOW... BLACK & WHITE VILLAGES TRAIL	£315.00
MAR 11	3 DAYS	ST MALO MINICRUISE NEW	£99.00	JUNE 10	3 DAYS	TROOPING THE COLOUR... THE QUEEN'S OFFICIAL 90th BIRTHDAY	£199.00
MAR 12	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN SOUTHAMPTON & THE NEW FOREST	£69.00	JUNE 10	8 DAYS	SCOTLAND... ORKNEY & SHETLAND MINI-CRUISE	£735.00
MAR 14	5 DAYS	YORKSHIRE WINTER WARMER	£225.00				
MAR 14	6 DAYS	LOCHS & GLENS OF SCOTLAND	£299.00				
MAR 15	5 DAYS	JERSEY BY AIR	£389.00				
MAR 19	4 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN STRATFORD & THE COTSWOLDS	£229.00				
MAR 21	5 DAYS	SPRINGTIME IN TENBY	£225.00				
MAR 25	4 DAYS	EASTER IN THE PEAK DISTRICT	£225.00				
APR 1	4 DAYS	SINGLES WEEKEND ON THE SUSSEX COAST	£225.00				
APR 2	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN SOUTH WALES	£69.00				
APR 4	5 DAYS	WEYMOUTH... MOCK CRUISE (NO SAILING!) NEW	£285.00				
APR 6	4 DAYS	ANTIQUES FAYRE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	£185.00				
APR 8	3 DAYS	THE GRAND NATIONAL	£235.00				
APR 11	5 DAYS	SPRINGTIME ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT	£255.00				
APR 15	4 DAYS	CITY BREAK IN CAMBRIDGE & ELY	£235.00				
APR 17	5 DAYS	SPRINGTIME IN CORNWALL	£275.00				
APR 18	5 DAYS	THE DUTCH BULFIELDS & THE BEST OF HOLLAND	£395.00				
APR 18	5 DAYS	MELTON MOWBRAY MONARCHS & MARKETS	£275.00				
APR 22	4 DAYS	BLACKPOOL & THE UK COACH RALLY	£439.00				
APR 22	4 DAYS	BIG BAND WEEKEND, HILTON HOTEL, BLACKPOOL	£239.00				
APR 23	8 DAYS	SPRINGTIME SPLENDOR IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL	£439.00				
APR 25	5 DAYS	WARNERS BREAK... NIDD HALL... 2 seats only	£325.00				
APR 29	4 DAYS	BLOOMING BELGIUM	£299.00				
APR 29	4 DAYS	LLANDUDNO VICTORIAN EXTRAVAGANZA & TRANSPORT FESTIVAL	£175.00				

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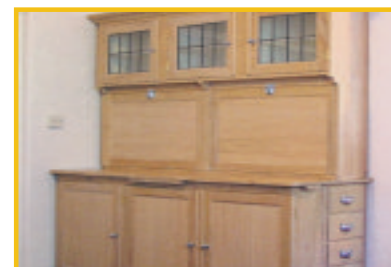
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Halse, Somerset

£725,000

Grade II Listed Detached home in the very popular village of Halse. This home has been carefully looked after by the current owners and is offered in good decorative order and has received regular attention to the thatch. The property benefits from mature gardens and a lovely courtyard garden to the rear. There is a stream running through the grounds and the paddock is accessed over a wooden bridge (The paddock is circa. 5 acres of level grassland with its own access). The accommodation comprises 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, kitchen, family bathroom, 1 bed annexed, 2 garages.



Churchstanton

Guide price £2,200,000

A non-listed family house at the end of a long drive in the heart of the Blackdown Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Extensive ancillary accommodation, garaging, barns, paddocks and lakes. EPC Rating D. About 20.4 acres. Vencroft Farm has grown organically over the years with its origins believed to date back to the 15th Century. The house has been cleverly extended with a fabulous conservatory on the southern end giving magnificent rural views out across its own landscaped garden, ponds and lake to the fields and woodland beyond down the Culm Valley. An original stone barn has been cleverly incorporated into the house to create a fantastic dining room with a high pitched roof and a minstrels gallery.



Upton, Brendon Hills

£439,950

A lovely detached stone built cottage set in the much sought after Brendon Hills. The home benefits from a mature landscaped garden and a paddock of approaching two acres. The formal garden comprise lawns, well stocked flower beds and several areas ideal for sitting and enjoying the river that flows along the boundary. The lane is very quiet and the views over the surrounding hills are worth seeing. Three bedrooms, "eat in" kitchen, dining room, large feature living room, family bathroom make up the main living areas of the home. South westerly aspect. Garage and driveway parking.



West Buckland

£375,000

An exciting opportunity to live within an exclusive private gated development of just four Lodges set in grounds and communal of approaching 5 acres. There is a small lake and hard tennis court included in the communal area. The properties were built to a high standard throughout and are located on the Blackdown Hills with generous private gardens. Excellent access to the M5 Motorway and the A38. Extremely versatile accommodation (1,800 sq ft) No onward chain.

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PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO INCLUDE YOUR PROPERTY IN OUR NEXT EXHIBITION



Marsh - £349,950

A rare opportunity to purchase 2 cottages under the same title in the village of Marsh, nestled in the Blackdown Hills area of Natural Beauty. Ivy cottage comprises: Dining hall, sitting room with inglenook fireplace, kitchen, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, stone built workshop, pretty garden and a 60ft driveway. Rose cottage comprises: sitting room, kitchen, shower room and a good sized double bedroom. The property retains many character features including exposed beams and exposed natural stone. The property benefits from double glazing throughout.



Lower Chillington - £725,000

An impressive detached character farmhouse with substantial barn set in nearly an acre of gardens and grounds. Comprises: Porch, entrance hall, sitting room, drawing room, farmhouse kitchen/dining room, further entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, conservatory, 5 double bedrooms, dressing area, bathroom, shower room, workshop, lean to garage/store, utility, office, large games/hobby room, triple garage, double carport, 2 stores and an Al Fresco dining area.

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